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Nonfarm Employment

Connecticut 1,663,500

Change over month 0.15%

Change over year 1.2%

United States 132,843,000

Change over month 0.20%

Change over year 1.8%

Unemployment Rate

Connecticut 4.8%

United States 5.4%

Consumer Price Index

United States 191.8

Change over year 3.0%

Is Connecticut rising to the global economy challenge?

By Mark Prisløe, Associate Economist, DECD

In an increasingly global economy, Connecticut's exports have shown that this State can compete with the best of them. Since exceeding defense spending in 1990, exports have significantly increased their role in the State's economy.

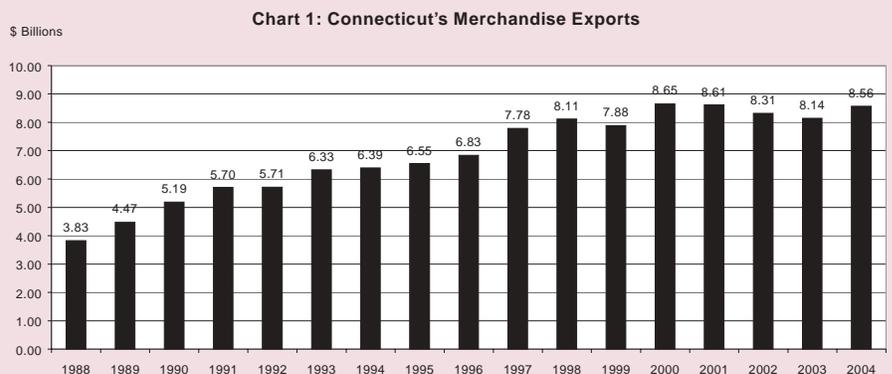
Annual exports in 2004 grew 5.2 percent from \$8.14 billion to \$8.56 billion. The export share of Gross State Product (GSP) was also sustained at an estimated 5.0 percent of GSP in 2004, up from 4.4 percent of GSP in 2003 and 4.8 percent in 2002, and down only slightly from 5.2 percent in 2001.

The downturn from 2001 through 2003 interrupted an otherwise steady upward trend (Chart 1). Despite this recent setback, Connecticut's export trend compared with that of the U.S. reveals favorable long-run growth (Chart 2), with Connecticut exports increasing 123 percent from 1988-2004.

Through 1994, the pace of Connecticut export growth actually exceeded that of the U.S. A similar ascent characterized 1995-2000, a period of widespread U.S. expansion. Such a pattern indicates the attractiveness of Connecticut's manufactured products and the ability of Connecticut's businesses to penetrate the international arena. Foreign sales represent products in demand and thus a consistent product mix portends future success.

What industries make up Connecticut's demonstrated export strength?

Connecticut's industrial mix of exports has remained remarkably stable (Chart 3). Noted especially for its transportation equipment, Connecticut's export industries have historically included industrial machinery, instruments, electronic and electrical equipment, chemicals and allied products. Transportation equipment's



ECONOMIC DIGEST

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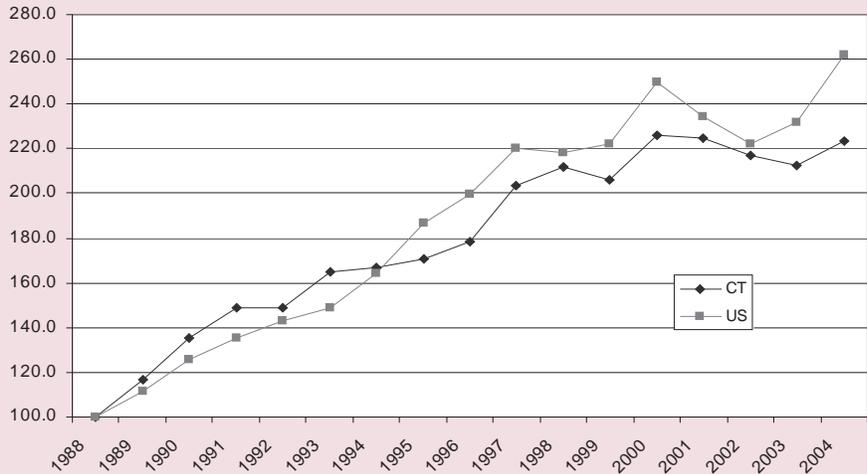
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Chart 2: Connecticut & US Export Trends
1988=100



dominating share of State exports rose from 33 percent in 1990 to 39 percent in 2000. Though it has declined since then, it still ranked first in 2004 at 37.1 percent.

Transportation equipment, machinery, computer and electronic products, chemicals, and other miscellaneous manufactured commodities rank as Connecticut's top five exporting industries. Electrical equipment, fabricated and primary metals, plastics and paper products round out the top ten (Table A).

Industrial machinery and computers remained Connecticut's second largest export at 12.9 percent in 2004. Of the State's five leading industries, electronic and electric equipment and transportation equipment were the fastest growing, expanding by 102 percent and 95 percent, respectively from 1990-2000. Machinery and computers, instruments, and chemicals also grew, but more

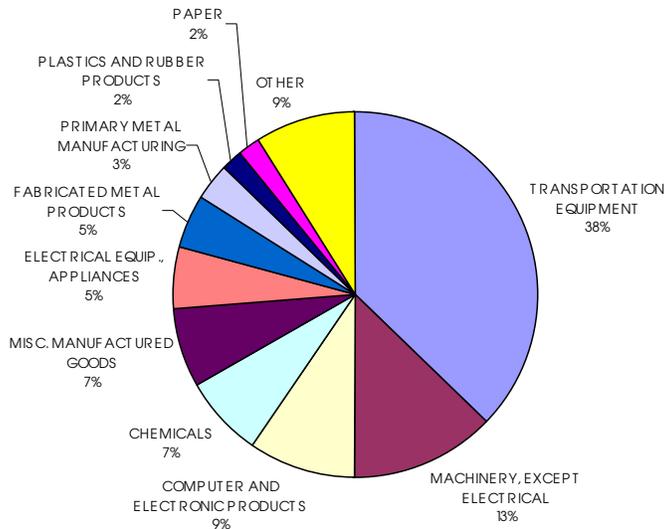
slowly than Connecticut's average 67 percent for all industries from 1990-2000. In 2004, machinery became the fastest growing, remaining among the top ranked in dollar volume along with electrical equipment, primary metal, and plastics.

It is interesting to note how the gradual decline in the dollar volume of transportation equipment's exports over 2002-2004 contrasts with the steady growth in industrial machinery industry exports (Chart 4).

Future export composition: As previously noted, Connecticut's export industries have remained fairly consistent over time. Annual data, from 1988 to present, consistently show transportation equipment in the lead and the merchandise export composition is likely to remain stable throughout the next decade.

Rank	NAICS Code	Description	ANNUAL 2002	ANNUAL 2003	ANNUAL 2004	CHANGE '04 %
		TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	8,313,390,369.00	8,136,442,912.00	8,559,237,269.00	5.2%
1	336	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	4,098,661,526.00	3,298,120,804.00	3,177,827,619.00	-3.6%
2	333	MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	669,842,672.00	784,385,175.00	1,106,773,395.00	41.1%
3	334	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC	760,014,025.00	789,501,073.00	803,610,886.00	4.9%
4	325	CHEMICALS	499,870,878.00	749,024,081.00	608,180,192.00	-18.8%
5	339	MISC. MANUFACTURED GOODS	393,619,961.00	486,357,200.00	606,202,640.00	24.6%
6	335	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT	316,323,026.00	336,127,000.00	469,688,632.00	39.7%
7	332	FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	427,416,045.00	440,492,618.00	406,459,831.00	-7.7%
8	331	PRIMARY METAL	167,597,281.00	203,147,476.00	275,741,165.00	35.7%
9	326	PLASTICS AND RUBBER	141,164,086.00	137,605,218.00	179,579,518.00	21.1%
10	322	PAPER	174,905,724.00	188,636,778.00	165,849,925.00	-12.1%

Chart 3: Connecticut 2004 Export Shares



The dominance of transportation equipment such as aircraft, aircraft parts and engines, and helicopters may largely explain this. However, the significant presence of aerospace, primary and fabricated metal, and industrial machinery manufacturing shows the interconnectedness of industries since many of these are related as suppliers or are an integral part of the production of transportation equipment.

In 2004, Connecticut's merchandise exports also include optic, photo, medical and surgical instruments; electrical machinery; and plastics. Chemicals (including pharmaceuticals) also figured in the top 10 export commodities, but only computer products have gained a relatively larger share of the pie. Machinery, primary, and fabricated metal, and electrical

equipment are still major contributors to Connecticut's exports.

Where does it all go?

Export destinations: The mix of Connecticut's top ten international trading partners has also exhibited consistency over the years. Canada has been the premier destination for Connecticut exports, absorbing 22 percent of all Connecticut international shipments in 2000 and one fifth (\$1.7 billion) of all State merchandise exports in 2001. In 2004, Canada was still the number one destination for Connecticut exports, however their share has eroded as more and more developing economies enter the global marketplace.

The balance of the top ten export destinations are France, Germany, Mexico, United King-

dom, Japan, Singapore, Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland.

China and Korea are 11th and 12th, respectively. Although mainland China is one rank below Connecticut's top 10 export markets, it is climbing steadily. State exports to China shot up by 149.5% from 1998-2001. China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) should boost opportunities for both Connecticut and other U.S. exporters.

Future trading partners: It is unlikely that Connecticut's long-standing pattern of trade with Canada and Europe will change dramatically over the next decade. However, the developing Asian economies, as well as those of Latin America, present expanding opportunities for Connecticut's exporters and represent a source for continued export growth for Connecticut. A failure to take advantage of emerging trade opportunities would put Connecticut at risk of losing market share to international competition.

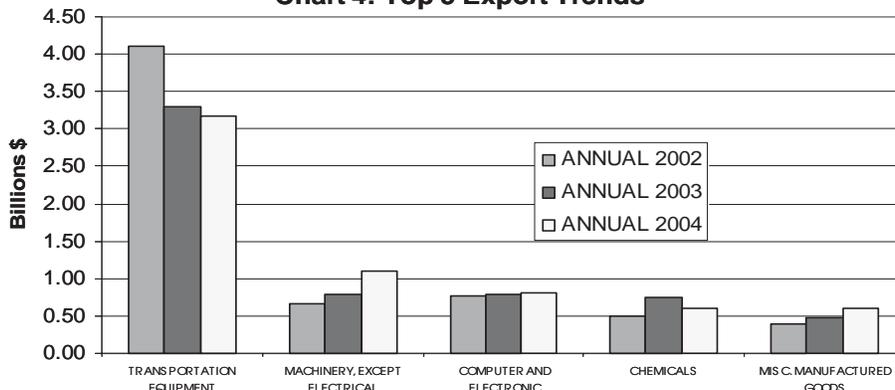
How does Connecticut stack up?

Connecticut exports represented 1.1 percent of total U.S. exports in 2000 and 1.2 percent in 2001. The 2004 share declined slightly to 1.0 percent, however Connecticut can still boast of its ranking among the 50 states. Currently Connecticut ranks 26th, a position which has remained relatively stable throughout the data analysis period. Though geographically small, Connecticut's exports are three times the average of half of the states in the nation.

Connecticut vs. New England States

Connecticut was second only to Massachusetts among the New England states in total exports. Connecticut's 2004 exports topped \$8.5 billion, making it nearly three times the level of exports of the

Chart 4: Top 5 Export Trends



--Continued on page 5--

TOWN/CITY PROFILE

WESTBROOK

By Cynthia L. DeLisa, Research Analyst, DOL

Imagine ... it's a sparkling sun-filled summer afternoon, and you're taking a barefoot walk on a warm sandy beach. Gentle cool breezes, peaceful sounds of rippling waves, fellow beachcombers playing in the sand and surf, makes you feel this is where you were always meant to be. Life here is a pleasure. ~ Thomas & Maryanne D., Westbrook, CT

Did you know? The public beach in Westbrook (West Beach) is one of the longest town-owned beaches in Connecticut. Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale restaurant in Westbrook, as judged by Connecticut Magazine's 'Best of Connecticut 2004', serves up the best fried clams and lobster roll sandwiches in the State.

History

As recounted by town historian Michael Wells, the origins of Westbrook, like all of New England, are found in Puritan forebears fleeing their homeland for religious freedom. Westbrook is now a summer show-place of sail and motorboats and boasts a rich maritime history. There is one constant in Westbrook – its people. "Westbrook is what the people who have lived here, and are living here today, have made it," Wells says. "If history is, as Thomas Carlyle once wrote, the biography of great men, then the history of a small town is the history of the great persons who shaped it along the way." Wells refers to such great persons as Westbrook's heroes, such as John A. Holbrook, who helped forge a 20th century town from a 19th-century one. First selectman, state

representative, state senator, and veteran of two European wars, Holbrook convinced the State to build an armory in Westbrook (an important thing at the time); helped create and preserve the town beach; brought the State police barracks to town and then fought to keep it there. Another notable Westbrook resident and American Revolutionary War patriot, David Bushnell, born in 1740, invented a vessel he dubbed the "Turtle": the first submarine.

Economy & Employment

Westbrook had a population of 6,583 in 2003, and in 2004 its labor force was 3,783 strong, with an unemployment rate of 3.3%. Maritime is the town's principal industry, along with fishing, electronics, aircraft and missile parts, marinas, summer resorts, and retail. In 2004, the median household income was \$59,506, which was higher than the statewide median household income of \$58,438.

In 2002, the top 5 major employers in Westbrook (according to CERC Town Profile 2004) included: **The Lee Company**, leading producer of miniature precision fluid control components for aerospace, medical/scientific instrumentation, and ink-jet

printing; **IPC Communications, Inc.**, an innovative global provider of mission-critical communications systems and services for the global financial community, government, public safety, energy and utilities, and transportation arenas; **Valley-Shore YMCA**, a community-based social and recreational center for youth, teens and adults; **Water's Edge Resort & Spa** which boasts endless amenities, and the BEST Sunday Brunch in the State; and the **Daisy Ingraham Primary School** which was given the National 'Blue Ribbon School Program' award in 1998-99.

The Warren Group, publisher of the Commercial Record, has indicated that the number of Westbrook homes sold during the first half of 2004, as compared to the first half of 2003, increased 24% from 49 to 61 sales. During that period, the median home sales price increased from \$274,000 to \$300,000, a 9.5% increase.

Community Development

In 2002, the federally funded 2001 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program awarded the Town of Westbrook \$500,000 to convert a 50-year old former school building into the Teresa Mulvey Municipal Center, Westbrook's new town hall. In 2003, \$650,000 of 'Small Cities' funds were granted to create a senior center within the Teresa

Mulvey Municipal Center. And in 2004, \$525,000 of the program's funds were awarded to the Westbrook Public Library for 'American Disability Act' improvements. Westbrook will soon have its first supermarket—Stop & Shop. Not a Super Stop & Shop however, in an effort to least disturb the wetlands on both sides of the proposed site on Flat Rock Place.

Westbrook truly is as it boasts: *'a friendly port'* – a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. ■

Westbrook economic trends

Industry Sector	2001			2002			2003				
	Estab.	Jobs	Wages	Estab.	Jobs	Wages	Estab.	Jobs	Wages		
Total	230	2,957	\$33,719	231	3,066	\$33,940	234	2,978	\$33,250		
Construction.....	14	38	\$48,908	16	45	\$45,638	16	47	\$46,486		
Manufacturing.....	11	786	\$53,809	13	772	\$54,482	12	645	\$53,049		
Trade, Transportation and Utilities.....	78	568	\$25,276	78	615	\$25,614	79	578	\$25,561		
Information.....	3	40	\$14,012	2	38	\$18,319	3	40	\$18,276		
Financial Activities.....	9	42	\$32,639	10	39	\$33,602	10	88	\$50,793		
Professional and Business Services.....	24	85	\$34,775	26	91	\$44,103	25	122	\$40,656		
Education and Health Services.....	10	210	\$22,129	11	222	\$22,300	10	204	\$24,298		
Leisure and Hospitality.....	32	616	\$24,785	29	650	\$24,562	32	638	\$25,784		
Other Services.....	28	244	\$17,204	25	260	\$16,950	27	281	\$17,872		
Government.....	19	318	\$37,981	19	327	\$39,009	18	329	\$34,080		
Economic Indicators \ Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Population.....	5,452	5,476	5,503	5,551	5,617	5,686	6,292	6,390	6,507	6,583	NA
Labor Force.....	3,131	3,069	3,197	3,193	3,130	3,191	3,456	3,524	3,635	3,702	3,783
Employed.....	2,965	2,925	3,035	3,027	3,027	3,114	3,400	3,447	3,505	3,544	3,657
Unemployed.....	166	144	162	166	103	77	56	77	130	158	126
Unemployment Rate.....	5.3	4.7	5.1	5.2	3.3	2.4	1.6	2.2	3.6	4.3	3.3
New Housing Permits.....	32	36	11	37	54	49	64	40	42	34	33
Retail Sales (\$mil.).....	44.0	30.7	47.6	54.8	53.8	55.8	61.1	61.7	62.8	NA	NA

--Continued from page 3--

next nearest competing New England state, Vermont. Canada is the number one export destination for every state in New England. Connecticut's total 2004 exports represent 21.2 percent of New England exports, compared with 54.0 percent for Massachusetts, 10.8 percent for Vermont, 6.2 percent for New Hampshire, 4.7 percent for Maine, and 3.1 percent for Rhode Island. Connecticut led only in transportation equipment exports. Electronic goods were the primary export from Massachusetts, Vermont, and Rhode Island, while New Hampshire's leading industry was industrial machinery,

and Maine's was paper and allied products. New England exports, amounting to some \$40.8 billion in 2004 as a whole, represented 5.3 percent of total U.S. exports.

Challenges ahead

There are challenges posed by the world economy underlying the trends in this report. Not the least among them is the larger role that rapidly advancing countries are playing.

It is apparent that exports will likely be an increasingly important factor in future economic growth in this progressively internationalized world. Anecdotal information

and hard empirical statistics such as those presented in this article leave little doubt that Connecticut manufacturers are firmly part of the global economy. These companies must, however, continue to explore opportunities in the international marketplace, opportunities that will have a strong influence on demand for the State's labor and capital. If they fail to do so, we will certainly lose our current momentum and enviable competitive export position. ■

(Data Source: World Institute for Social and Economic Research)

HOUSING UPDATE

State Housing Permit Update

The Bureau of Census has changed its practice of collecting housing permit data from all of Connecticut municipalities. The Bureau has informed DECD, with the release of the February data, that it will only be collecting permit information from 128 Connecticut municipalities on a monthly basis. As the monthly data collected and released by the Bureau of Census will now be incomplete, DECD can no longer issue a state-

wide housing permit analysis. DECD will now post the information it receives from the Bureau of Census on its website www.decd.org (under "Latest News") as soon as it is available. Press releases will no longer be issued on a monthly basis.

The Bureau of Census has indicated that each May they will be releasing annual housing permit data for all of Connecticut's municipalities for the previous calendar year. DECD

will release this data with its analysis to the media at that time.

The February housing permit activity for the 128 cities and towns that are reporting to the Census monthly is on page 22.

Anybody interested in receiving housing permit data via e-mail can write to Kolie Sun at kolie.sun@po.state.ct.us. Ms. Sun will e-mail the data near the end of each month.

GENERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	4Q	4Q	CHANGE		3Q
	2004	2003	NO.	%	2004
Employment Indexes (1992=100)*					
Leading	117.4	115.6	1.8	1.5	116.6
Coincident	108.2	106.3	1.9	1.8	107.8
General Drift Indicator (1986=100)*					
Leading	102.4	101.4	1.0	1.0	102.5
Coincident	101.8	101.1	0.7	0.7	102.2
Banknorth Business Barometer (1992=100)**	119.5	117.2	2.3	2.0	118.3

Sources: *The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut
 **Banknorth Bank

The Connecticut Economy's **General Drift Indicators** are composite measures of the four-quarter change in three coincident (Connecticut Manufacturing Production Index, nonfarm employment, and real personal income) and four leading (housing permits, manufacturing average weekly hours, Hartford help-wanted advertising, and initial unemployment claims) economic variables, and are indexed so 1986 = 100.

The **Banknorth Business Barometer** is a measure of overall economic growth in the state of Connecticut that is derived from non-manufacturing employment, real disposable personal income, and manufacturing production.

Total nonfarm employment increased by 20,300 over the year.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

	FEB		CHANGE		JAN
	2005	FEB 2004	NO.	%	2005
TOTAL NONFARM	1663.5	1,643.2	20.3	1.2	1,661.0
Construction	67.7	63.2	4.5	7.1	67.5
Manufacturing	198.7	197.2	1.5	0.8	197.6
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	311.0	306.5	4.5	1.5	309.7
Information	39.3	39.1	0.2	0.5	39.5
Financial Activities	140.9	140.8	0.1	0.1	140.7
Professional and Business Services	198.3	196.6	1.7	0.9	197.8
Leisure and Hospitality	129.2	126.6	2.6	2.1	128.9
Government*	241.9	242.7	-0.8	-0.3	242.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Labor (see page 12 for other industries, not seasonally adjusted)
* Includes Native American tribal government employment

Initial claims for unemployment insurance fell from a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

	FEB		CHANGE		JAN
	2005	FEB 2004	NO.	%	2005
Unemployment Rate, resident (%)	4.8	5.2	-0.4	---	4.7
Labor Force, resident (000s)	1,776.6	1,802.0	-25.4	-1.4	1,782.3
Employed (000s)	1,691.4	1,708.1	-16.7	-1.0	1,698.3
Unemployed (000s)	85.2	93.9	-8.7	-9.3	84.0
Average Weekly Initial Claims	3,915	4,564	-649	-14.2	4,287
Help Wanted Index -- Htfd. (1987=100)	11	11	0	0.0	11
Avg. Insured Unemp. Rate (%)	2.68	3.08	-0.40	---	2.71

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; The Conference Board

The production worker weekly earnings rose over the year.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY

	FEB		CHANGE		JAN	DEC
	2005	FEB 2004	NO.	%	2005	2004
Average Weekly Hours	41.8	41.5	0.3	0.7	42.0	--
Average Hourly Earnings	18.78	17.99	0.79	4.4	18.85	--
Average Weekly Earnings	785.00	746.59	38.41	5.1	791.70	--
CT Mfg. Production Index (1986=100)*	118.6	117.9	0.7	0.6	115.3	121.7
Production Worker Hours (000s)	5,001	4,847	154	3.2	5,005	--
Industrial Electricity Sales (mil kWh)**	400	418	-18.3	-4.4	387	427

Sources: Connecticut Department of Labor; U.S. Department of Energy
*Seasonally adjusted.
**Latest two months are forecasted.

Personal income for second quarter 2005 is forecasted to increase 4.9 percent from a year earlier.

INCOME

	2Q*		CHANGE		1Q*
	2005	2Q 2004	NO.	%	2005
Personal Income	\$165,467	\$157,751	\$7,716	4.9	\$164,749
UI Covered Wages	\$85,161	\$80,868	\$4,293	5.3	\$87,804

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis: January 2005 release
*Forecasted by Connecticut Department of Labor

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
Electricity Sales (mil kWh)	DEC 2004	2,804	2.5	31,865	31,784	0.3
Retail Sales (Bil. \$)	OCT 2003	3.28	-0.6	34.19	34.55	-1.0
Construction Contracts						
Index (1980=100)	FEB 2005	302.9	9.1	---	---	---
New Auto Registrations	FEB 2005	17,903	16.6	34,059	36,731	-7.3
Air Cargo Tons	FEB 2005	12,016	4.2	23,834	23,358	2.0
Exports (Bil. \$)	4Q 2004	2.23	5.2	8.56	8.14	5.2

New auto registrations were up 16.6 percent from a year ago.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration; Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; F.W. Dodge; Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles; Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

	MO/QTR	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
STARTS						
Secretary of the State	FEB 2005	2,393	3.5	5,137	4,885	5.2
Department of Labor*	3Q 2004	2,107	8.6	7,159	6,910	3.6
TERMINATIONS						
Secretary of the State	FEB 2005	736	18.1	1,561	1,478	5.6
Department of Labor*	3Q 2004	1,223	-32.9	4,289	5,418	-20.8

Net business formation, as measured by starts minus stops registered with the Secretary of the State, was up 5.0 percent to 3,576 over the year.

Sources: Connecticut Secretary of the State; Connecticut Department of Labor
* Revised methodology applied back to 1996; 3-months total

STATE REVENUES

	YEAR TO DATE			YEAR TO DATE		
	FEB 2005	FEB 2004	% CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	% CHG
(Millions of dollars)						
TOTAL ALL REVENUES*	718.4	691.5	3.9	1,939.8	1,763.3	10.0
Corporate Tax	24.4	15.1	61.6	36.9	30.6	20.6
Personal Income Tax	346.2	325.2	6.5	991.8	891.5	11.3
Real Estate Conv. Tax	11.0	10.2	7.8	25.7	21.9	17.4
Sales & Use Tax	218.2	210.2	3.8	589.3	572.0	3.0
Indian Gaming Payments**	33.8	34.3	-1.6	63.4	64.7	-2.0

February State revenues were up 3.9 percent from a year ago.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; Division of Special Revenue
*Includes all sources of revenue; Only selected sources are displayed; Most July receipts are credited to the prior fiscal year and are not shown. **See page 23 for explanation.

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

	MONTH	LEVEL	Y/Y %	YEAR TO DATE		%
			CHG	CURRENT	PRIOR	CHG
Info Center Visitors	FEB 2005	13,810	-9.3	29,845	31,241	-4.5
Major Attraction Visitors	FEB 2005	93,204	-20.4	149,288	193,407	-22.8
Air Passenger Count	FEB 2005	548,270	8.6	1,079,340	964,917	11.9
Indian Gaming Slots (Mil.\$)*	FEB 2005	1,570	-6.7	3,018	3,217	-6.2
Travel and Tourism Index**	4Q 2004	---	3.4	---	---	---

February air passenger count was up 8.6 percent over the year.

Sources: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation and Ports; Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; Connecticut Lodging & Attractions Association; Division of Special Revenue

*See page 23 for explanation

**The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut

Compensation cost for the nation rose 3.8 percent over the year.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

Private Industry Workers (June 1989=100)	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	DEC	SEP	3-Mo	DEC	DEC	12-Mo
	2004	2004	% Chg	2004	2003	% Chg
UNITED STATES TOTAL	175.8	174.5	0.7	175.2	168.8	3.8
Wages and Salaries	166.4	165.8	0.4	166.2	162.3	2.4
Benefit Costs	199.3	196.4	1.5	198.7	185.8	6.9
NORTHEAST TOTAL	---	---	---	174.2	167.9	3.8
Wages and Salaries	---	---	---	165.0	160.9	2.5

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

U.S. inflation rate increased 3.0 percent over the year.

CONSUMER NEWS

(Not seasonally adjusted)	MO/QTR	LEVEL	% CHANGE	
			Y/Y	P/P*
CONSUMER PRICES				
Connecticut**	4Q 2004	---	NA	---
CPI-U (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	FEB 2005	191.8	3.0	0.6
Purchasing Power of \$ (1982-84=\$1.00)	FEB 2005	\$0.521	-2.9	-0.6
Northeast Region	FEB 2005	203.6	3.5	0.5
NY-Northern NJ-Long Island	FEB 2005	208.9	3.9	0.4
Boston-Brockton-Nashua***	JAN 2005	211.3	1.4	-0.2
CPI-W (1982-84=100)				
U.S. City Average	FEB 2005	187.3	3.0	0.5
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE (1985=100)				
Connecticut**	4Q 2004	96.3	-4.2	-10.0
New England	FEB 2005	110.8	36.3	12.0
U.S.	FEB 2005	104.0	17.5	-1.0

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; The Conference Board

*Change over prior monthly or quarterly period

**The Connecticut Economy, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut

***The Boston CPI can be used as a proxy for New England and is measured every other month.

30-year conventional mortgage rate fell to 5.63 percent over the month.

INTEREST RATES

(Percent)	FEB	JAN	FEB
	2005	2005	2004
Prime	5.49	5.25	4.00
Federal Funds	2.50	2.28	1.01
3 Month Treasury Bill	2.54	2.33	0.94
6 Month Treasury Bill	2.77	2.61	1.01
1 Year Treasury Bill	3.03	2.86	1.41
3 Year Treasury Note	3.54	3.39	2.63
5 Year Treasury Note	3.77	3.71	3.45
7 Year Treasury Note	3.97	3.97	3.97
10 Year Treasury Note	4.17	4.22	4.46
20 Year Treasury Note	4.61	4.77	5.25
Conventional Mortgage	5.63	5.71	5.64

Sources: Federal Reserve; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

All nine states in the region added jobs over the year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	FEB	FEB	CHANGE		JAN
	2005	2004	NO.	%	2005
Connecticut	1,663.5	1,643.2	20.3	1.2	1,661.0
Maine	617.3	611.6	5.7	0.9	615.7
Massachusetts	3,191.3	3,170.4	20.9	0.7	3,190.0
New Hampshire	631.1	621.7	9.4	1.5	632.9
New Jersey	4,038.4	3,976.9	61.5	1.5	4,030.5
New York	8,491.2	8,414.9	76.3	0.9	8,488.8
Pennsylvania	5,673.7	5,613.2	60.5	1.1	5,676.0
Rhode Island	491.9	487.0	4.9	1.0	491.1
Vermont	305.8	301.2	4.6	1.5	305.4
United States	132,843.0	130,466.0	2,377.0	1.8	132,581.0

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

LABOR FORCE

Five of nine states posted increases in the labor force from last year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted; 000s)</i>	FEB	FEB	CHANGE		JAN
	2005	2004	NO.	%	2005
Connecticut	1,776.6	1,802.0	-25.4	-1.4	1,782.3
Maine	701.8	696.4	5.4	0.8	700.9
Massachusetts	3,376.7	3,400.0	-23.3	-0.7	3,371.3
New Hampshire	727.3	720.9	6.4	0.9	726.6
New Jersey	4,399.1	4,379.8	19.3	0.4	4,390.1
New York	9,386.9	9,332.3	54.6	0.6	9,357.3
Pennsylvania	6,331.7	6,230.8	100.9	1.6	6,337.6
Rhode Island	561.7	561.9	-0.2	0.0	558.5
Vermont	353.4	353.0	0.4	0.1	353.1
United States	148,132.0	146,529.0	1,603.0	1.1	147,979.0

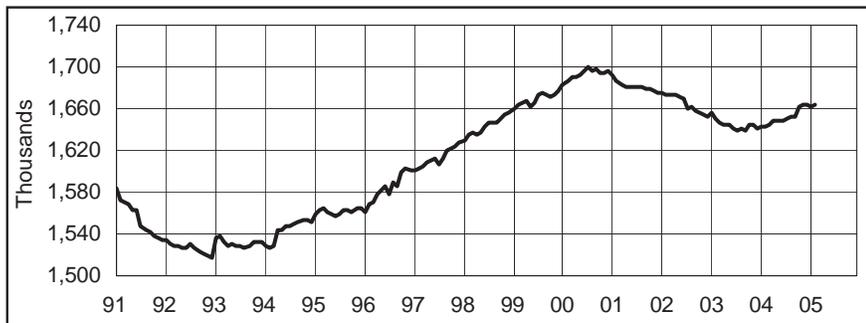
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

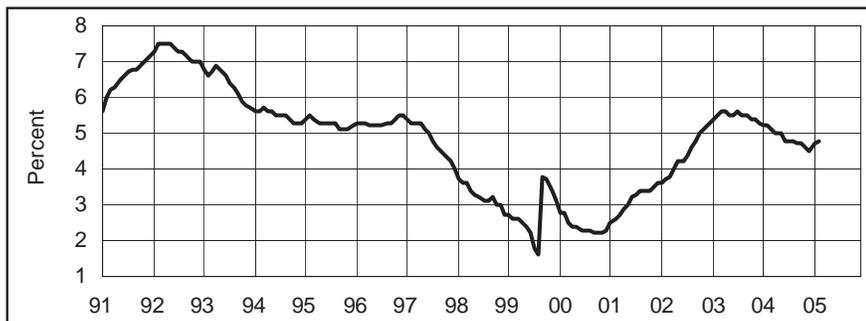
Eight of nine states showed a decrease in its unemployment rate over the year.

<i>(Seasonally adjusted)</i>	FEB	FEB	CHANGE	JAN
	2005	2004		2005
Connecticut	4.8	5.2	-0.4	4.7
Maine	4.7	4.7	0.0	4.4
Massachusetts	4.9	5.5	-0.6	4.8
New Hampshire	3.8	4.1	-0.3	3.4
New Jersey	4.4	5.3	-0.9	3.9
New York	5.1	6.2	-1.1	5.0
Pennsylvania	5.2	5.5	-0.3	5.1
Rhode Island	4.4	5.4	-1.0	4.4
Vermont	3.6	4.1	-0.5	3.5
United States	5.4	5.6	-0.2	5.2

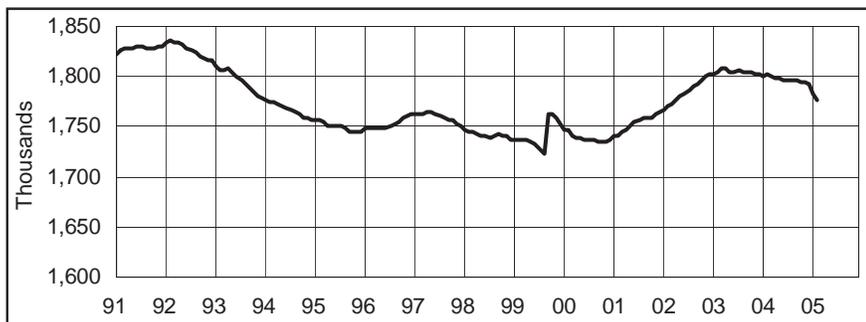
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Seasonally adjusted)*

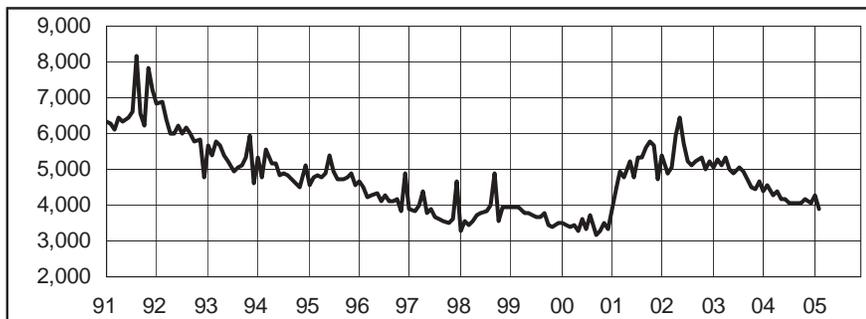
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	1,656.7	1,642.1	1,661.0
Feb	1,650.7	1,643.2	1,663.5
Mar	1,647.1	1,644.3	
Apr	1,644.1	1,648.0	
May	1,644.1	1,648.1	
Jun	1,641.8	1,648.6	
Jul	1,639.1	1,650.7	
Aug	1,640.1	1,652.1	
Sep	1,638.8	1,652.4	
Oct	1,645.7	1,662.1	
Nov	1,645.0	1,664.5	
Dec	1,641.1	1,664.6	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE *(Seasonally adjusted)*

Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	5.4	5.2	4.7
Feb	5.5	5.2	4.8
Mar	5.6	5.1	
Apr	5.6	5.0	
May	5.5	5.0	
Jun	5.5	4.8	
Jul	5.6	4.8	
Aug	5.5	4.8	
Sep	5.5	4.7	
Oct	5.4	4.7	
Nov	5.4	4.6	
Dec	5.3	4.5	

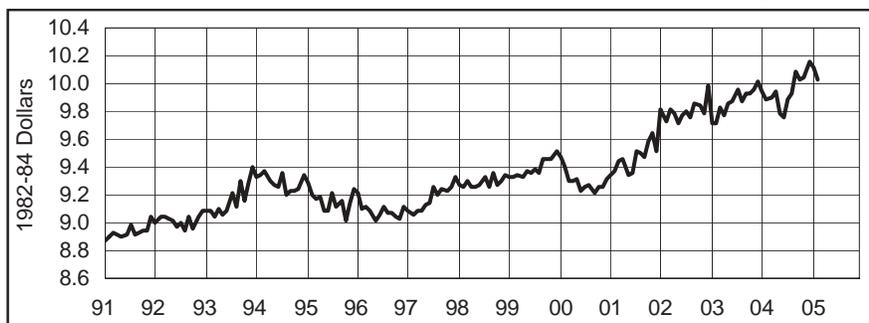
LABOR FORCE *(Seasonally adjusted)*

Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	1,803.3	1,800.9	1,782.3
Feb	1,805.2	1,802.0	1,776.6
Mar	1,808.0	1,801.2	
Apr	1,807.4	1,798.3	
May	1,804.5	1,799.0	
Jun	1,805.2	1,796.8	
Jul	1,806.2	1,796.8	
Aug	1,805.1	1,797.0	
Sep	1,804.7	1,795.5	
Oct	1,803.4	1,794.9	
Nov	1,803.3	1,794.1	
Dec	1,802.7	1,791.5	

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS *(Seasonally adjusted)*

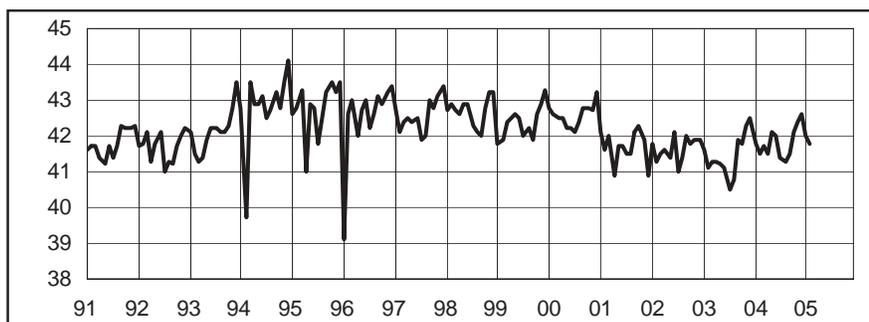
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	5,038	4,382	4,287
Feb	5,295	4,564	3,915
Mar	5,126	4,299	
Apr	5,319	4,376	
May	5,002	4,173	
Jun	4,897	4,179	
Jul	5,072	4,033	
Aug	4,924	4,061	
Sep	4,720	4,060	
Oct	4,504	4,037	
Nov	4,445	4,170	
Dec	4,675	4,030	

REAL AVG MANUFACTURING HOURLY EARNINGS (Not seasonally adjusted) *



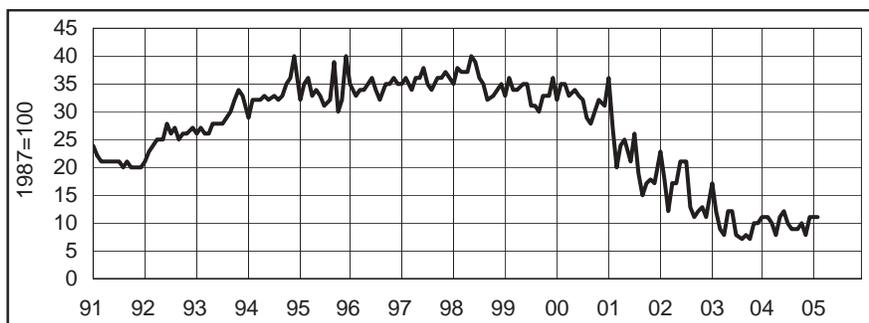
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	\$9.71	\$9.94	\$10.12
Feb	\$9.72	\$9.89	\$10.03
Mar	\$9.83	\$9.90	
Apr	\$9.78	\$9.94	
May	\$9.86	\$9.78	
Jun	\$9.88	\$9.76	
Jul	\$9.96	\$9.88	
Aug	\$9.87	\$9.92	
Sep	\$9.93	\$10.08	
Oct	\$9.93	\$10.02	
Nov	\$9.95	\$10.05	
Dec	\$10.01	\$10.16	

AVG MANUFACTURING WEEKLY HOURS (Not seasonally adjusted)



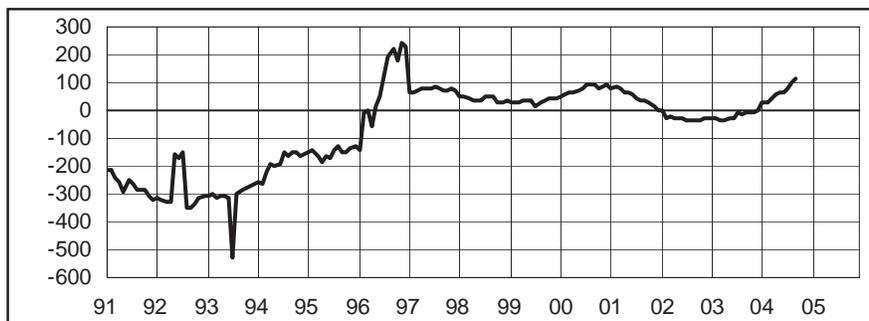
Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	41.6	41.8	42.0
Feb	41.1	41.5	41.8
Mar	41.3	41.7	
Apr	41.3	41.5	
May	41.2	42.1	
Jun	41.1	42.0	
Jul	40.5	41.4	
Aug	40.8	41.3	
Sep	41.9	41.5	
Oct	41.8	42.1	
Nov	42.3	42.4	
Dec	42.5	42.6	

HARTFORD HELP WANTED INDEX (Seasonally adjusted)



Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	17	11	11
Feb	12	11	11
Mar	9	10	
Apr	8	8	
May	12	11	
Jun	12	12	
Jul	8	10	
Aug	7	9	
Sep	8	9	
Oct	7	10	
Nov	10	8	
Dec	10	11	

DOL NET BUSINESS STARTS (12-month moving average) **



Month	2003	2004	2005
Jan	-27	29	
Feb	-31	31	
Mar	-34	43	
Apr	-35	56	
May	-30	62	
Jun	-27	67	
Jul	-7	80	
Aug	-13	99	
Sep	-8	114	
Oct	-10		
Nov	-5		
Dec	0		

*New series began in 2001; prior years are not directly comparable

**New series began in 1996; prior years are not directly comparable

CONNECTICUT*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	FEB 2005	FEB 2004	CHANGE		JAN 2005
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	1,640,900	1,618,600	22,300	1.4	1,637,900
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	259,400	253,400	6,000	2.4	259,900
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	61,300	57,000	4,300	7.5	62,200
MANUFACTURING	198,100	196,400	1,700	0.9	197,700
Durable Goods	147,500	145,500	2,000	1.4	147,200
Fabricated Metal.....	34,200	33,400	800	2.4	34,100
Machinery.....	18,700	18,600	100	0.5	18,700
Computer and Electronic Product.....	15,400	15,300	100	0.7	15,400
Electrical Equipment.....	10,200	10,500	-300	-2.9	10,300
Transportation Equipment	43,500	42,900	600	1.4	43,300
Aerospace Product and Parts.....	30,200	29,900	300	1.0	30,000
Non-Durable Goods	50,600	50,900	-300	-0.6	50,500
Printing and Related.....	8,300	8,500	-200	-2.4	8,300
Chemical.....	17,000	17,200	-200	-1.2	17,000
Plastics and Rubber Products.....	7,500	7,600	-100	-1.3	7,600
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	1,381,500	1,365,200	16,300	1.2	1,378,000
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	307,300	301,000	6,300	2.1	311,700
Wholesale Trade.....	64,700	64,900	-200	-0.3	64,800
Retail Trade.....	192,700	187,200	5,500	2.9	196,700
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers.....	22,900	22,500	400	1.8	22,800
Building Material.....	16,100	14,800	1,300	8.8	16,200
Food and Beverage Stores.....	43,800	43,500	300	0.7	44,100
General Merchandise Stores.....	25,600	23,400	2,200	9.4	26,600
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities....	49,900	48,900	1,000	2.0	50,200
Utilities.....	8,700	8,700	0	0.0	8,800
Transportation and Warehousing.....	41,200	40,200	1,000	2.5	41,400
INFORMATION	39,100	38,800	300	0.8	39,200
Telecommunications.....	13,600	13,900	-300	-2.2	13,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	140,000	139,600	400	0.3	140,000
Finance and Insurance.....	120,400	120,000	400	0.3	120,200
Credit Intermediation.....	31,300	31,500	-200	-0.6	31,200
Securities and Commodity Contracts.....	19,200	17,600	1,600	9.1	19,100
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities....	65,200	66,100	-900	-1.4	65,200
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing.....	19,600	19,600	0	0.0	19,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	193,700	191,300	2,400	1.3	193,400
Professional, Scientific.....	86,900	87,800	-900	-1.0	86,600
Legal Services.....	14,800	14,800	0	0.0	14,600
Computer Systems Design.....	18,300	18,200	100	0.5	18,300
Management of Companies.....	25,200	25,800	-600	-2.3	25,200
Administrative and Support.....	81,600	77,700	3,900	5.0	81,600
Employment Services.....	28,800	26,600	2,200	8.3	28,500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	272,700	268,200	4,500	1.7	268,700
Educational Services.....	53,500	51,800	1,700	3.3	49,300
Health Care and Social Assistance.....	219,200	216,400	2,800	1.3	219,400
Hospitals.....	55,600	54,700	900	1.6	55,800
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities.....	57,200	56,800	400	0.7	57,100
Social Assistance.....	35,200	34,200	1,000	2.9	35,200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	120,800	117,500	3,300	2.8	121,000
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation.....	21,300	20,300	1,000	4.9	21,500
Accommodation and Food Services.....	99,500	97,200	2,300	2.4	99,500
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places.	89,100	86,700	2,400	2.8	89,100
OTHER SERVICES	61,800	61,400	400	0.7	62,100
GOVERNMENT	246,100	247,400	-1,300	-0.5	241,900
Federal Government.....	19,900	20,200	-300	-1.5	19,900
State Government.....	65,100	66,400	-1,300	-2.0	61,500
**Local Government.....	161,100	160,800	300	0.2	160,500

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.

BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	FEB 2005	FEB 2004	CHANGE NO. %	JAN 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT.....	402,700	402,100	600 0.1	403,100
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES.....	53,700	54,400	-700 -1.3	54,100
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING.....	12,700	12,500	200 1.6	13,100
MANUFACTURING.....	41,000	41,900	-900 -2.1	41,000
Durable Goods.....	29,700	30,500	-800 -2.6	29,800
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES.....	349,000	347,700	1,300 0.4	349,000
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES.....	73,800	73,600	200 0.3	74,900
Wholesale Trade.....	14,600	14,800	-200 -1.4	14,700
Retail Trade.....	48,900	48,500	400 0.8	49,900
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities....	10,300	10,300	0 0.0	10,300
INFORMATION.....	12,000	12,100	-100 -0.8	12,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES.....	41,800	41,000	800 2.0	41,800
Finance and Insurance.....	35,400	34,800	600 1.7	35,300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	66,900	67,800	-900 -1.3	66,800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	59,800	59,100	700 1.2	59,100
Health Care and Social Assistance.....	51,100	50,300	800 1.6	51,100
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY.....	29,800	29,700	100 0.3	29,900
Accommodation and Food Services.....	22,300	22,600	-300 -1.3	22,300
OTHER SERVICES.....	16,700	16,400	300 1.8	16,800
GOVERNMENT	48,200	48,000	200 0.4	47,600
Federal.....	3,600	3,600	0 0.0	3,600
State & Local.....	44,600	44,400	200 0.5	44,000

For further information on the Bridgeport-Stamford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

DANBURY LMA



	<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>			
	FEB 2005	FEB 2004	CHANGE NO. %	JAN 2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT.....	67,600	67,500	100 0.1	67,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES.....	12,900	13,000	-100 -0.8	12,900
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES.....	54,700	54,500	200 0.4	54,700
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES.....	15,600	15,700	-100 -0.6	16,000
Retail Trade.....	11,900	11,800	100 0.8	12,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	8,200	8,000	200 2.5	8,300
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY.....	4,900	4,900	0 0.0	4,900
GOVERNMENT	8,200	8,200	0 0.0	7,900
Federal.....	600	600	0 0.0	600
State & Local.....	7,600	7,600	0 0.0	7,300

For further information on the Danbury Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

HARTFORD LMA*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	FEB	FEB	CHANGE		JAN
	2005	2004	NO.	%	2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT.....	535,500	529,200	6,300	1.2	534,000
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES.....	82,200	81,800	400	0.5	82,900
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING....	18,900	18,100	800	4.4	19,300
MANUFACTURING.....	63,300	63,700	-400	-0.6	63,600
Durable Goods.....	53,600	53,200	400	0.8	53,700
Transportation Equipment	18,500	18,100	400	2.2	18,500
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES.....	453,300	447,400	5,900	1.3	451,100
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES.....	87,900	87,100	800	0.9	89,000
Wholesale Trade.....	18,300	18,600	-300	-1.6	18,400
Retail Trade.....	55,500	54,400	1,100	2.0	56,400
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities....	14,100	14,100	0	0.0	14,200
Transportation and Warehousing.....	10,500	10,600	-100	-0.9	10,500
INFORMATION.....	11,600	11,200	400	3.6	11,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES.....	67,800	67,600	200	0.3	67,300
Depository Credit Institutions.....	7,900	7,900	0	0.0	7,900
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities....	45,100	46,200	-1,100	-2.4	45,600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	56,800	55,400	1,400	2.5	57,100
Professional, Scientific.....	27,400	26,800	600	2.2	27,500
Administrative and Support.....	23,700	22,800	900	3.9	23,900
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	84,700	83,200	1,500	1.8	84,400
Health Care and Social Assistance.....	73,100	72,300	800	1.1	73,200
Ambulatory Health Care.....	22,000	21,900	100	0.5	22,200
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY.....	36,200	35,400	800	2.3	36,300
Accommodation and Food Services.....	29,700	29,200	500	1.7	29,900
OTHER SERVICES.....	20,600	20,500	100	0.5	20,600
GOVERNMENT	87,700	87,000	700	0.8	84,800
Federal.....	6,100	6,100	0	0.0	6,100
State & Local.....	81,600	80,900	700	0.9	78,700

For further information on the Hartford Labor Market Area contact Arthur Famiglietti at (860) 263-6297.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS

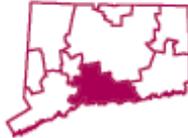
■ **Transition from school to work quicker as education increases**

Between 1978 and 2002 (in U.S.), it took approximately 5 years after leaving school for the first time before the average worker started a job that lasted 3 years. The length of the transition varied by level of educational attainment. Data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLS79) show that the median high school dropout took nearly 11 years before starting a job that would last 3 years. In comparison, the median high school graduate took 6 years to start a job that would last 3 years. Those with a college degree settled into stable employment much more quickly; within a year and a half they started a job that would last 3 years. In other words, the median high school dropout started a job that would last 3 years at age 29; the median high school graduate, at age 24; and the median college graduate, age 26. These data are from the BLS National Longitudinal Surveys program. For additional information, see "The transition from school to work: education and work experiences," by Julie A. Yates, Monthly Labor Review, February 2005.

(The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2, 2005)

--Continued on the following page--

NEW HAVEN LMA



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB	FEB	CHANGE		JAN
	2005	2004	NO.	%	2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	268,700	268,000	700	0.3	268,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	44,600	43,500	1,100	2.5	44,800
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	10,100	9,700	400	4.1	10,700
MANUFACTURING	34,500	33,800	700	2.1	34,100
Durable Goods.....	23,400	22,800	600	2.6	23,100
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	224,100	224,500	-400	-0.2	223,800
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	49,900	48,900	1,000	2.0	50,300
Wholesale Trade.....	11,400	11,300	100	0.9	11,200
Retail Trade.....	31,400	29,600	1,800	6.1	32,000
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities....	7,100	8,000	-900	-11.3	7,100
INFORMATION	8,600	8,600	0	0.0	8,600
Telecommunications.....	5,200	5,400	-200	-3.7	5,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	13,200	14,100	-900	-6.4	13,400
Finance and Insurance.....	10,100	10,500	-400	-3.8	10,300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	25,200	25,600	-400	-1.6	24,800
Administrative and Support.....	11,200	11,400	-200	-1.8	11,100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	62,300	63,200	-900	-1.4	61,400
Educational Services.....	22,400	23,500	-1,100	-4.7	21,100
Health Care and Social Assistance.....	39,900	39,700	200	0.5	40,300
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	19,900	18,400	1,500	8.2	20,100
Accommodation and Food Services.....	16,600	15,600	1,000	6.4	16,600
OTHER SERVICES	10,600	10,100	500	5.0	10,800
GOVERNMENT	34,400	35,600	-1,200	-3.4	34,400
Federal.....	5,500	5,500	0	0.0	5,500
State & Local.....	28,900	30,100	-1,200	-4.0	28,900

For further information on the New Haven Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepki at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

*Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Value less than 50

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS (Cont.)

Extended mass layoff events in 2004

For all of 2004, employers (in U.S.) reported 4,879 extended mass layoff actions, down from 6,181 events in 2003. Manufacturing accounted for the largest share of extended layoff events in 2004-29 percent. However, this was the smallest share on record for this industry group. Since reaching a peak in 2001, the number of manufacturing events has declined by 56 percent. In 2004, seasonal work continued to be the most frequently cited reason for layoff, accounting for 33 percent of all layoff events. The seasonal layoffs in 2004 occurred primarily in establishments engaged in food manufacturing, heavy and civil engineering construction, and in transit and ground passenger transportation. Permanent closures were 15 percent of extended mass layoff events in 2004. As was the case among all events, permanent closures were most numerous in manufacturing. These data come from the BLS Mass Layoff Statistics program. To learn more, see "Extended Mass Layoffs in the Fourth Quarter of 2004 and Annual Averages for 2004," news release USDL 05-264. Extended layoff events consist of fifty or more initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits from an establishment during a 5-week period, with at least 50 workers separated for more than 30 days. Data for 2004 are preliminary. (*The Editor's Desk, Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 17, 2005*)

**NORWICH - NEW
LONDON LMA***Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	FEB 2005	FEB 2004	CHANGE		JAN 2005
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	131,400	130,200	1,200	0.9	131,700
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	21,600	21,100	-200	-0.9	21,800
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	4,100	3,900	-100	-2.4	4,200
MANUFACTURING	17,500	17,200	-100	-0.6	17,600
Durable Goods.....	11,100	10,700	0	0.0	11,100
Non-Durable Goods.....	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5	6,500
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	109,800	109,100	-100	-0.1	109,900
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	21,600	21,300	-300	-1.4	21,900
Wholesale Trade.....	1,900	1,800	0	0.0	1,900
Retail Trade.....	15,600	15,500	-300	-1.9	15,900
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities....	4,100	4,000	0	0.0	4,100
INFORMATION	2,100	2,100	0	0.0	2,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	3,200	3,200	0	0.0	3,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	9,500	9,600	-100	-1.0	9,600
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	18,200	17,900	100	0.6	18,100
Health Care and Social Assistance.....	15,800	15,500	100	0.6	15,700
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	11,300	11,200	-100	-0.9	11,400
Accommodation and Food Services.....	9,700	9,600	0	0.0	9,700
Food Serv., Restaurants, Drinking Places.	7,900	7,700	200	2.6	8,000
OTHER SERVICES	3,900	3,800	100	2.6	3,900
GOVERNMENT	40,000	40,000	0	0.0	39,700
Federal.....	2,300	2,400	-100	-4.2	2,300
**State & Local.....	37,700	37,600	100	0.3	37,400

For further information on the Norwich-New London Labor Market Area contact Lincoln Dyer at (860) 263-6292.

WATERBURY LMA*Not Seasonally Adjusted*

	FEB 2005	FEB 2004	CHANGE		JAN 2005
			NO.	%	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	67,700	67,500	200	0.3	67,600
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	13,400	13,500	-100	-0.7	13,400
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING	2,600	2,500	100	4.0	2,700
MANUFACTURING	10,800	11,000	-200	-1.8	10,700
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	54,300	54,000	300	0.6	54,200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES	13,400	13,300	100	0.8	13,400
Wholesale Trade.....	2,100	2,000	100	5.0	2,100
Retail Trade.....	8,900	9,000	-100	-1.1	9,000
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities....	2,400	2,300	100	4.3	2,300
INFORMATION	1,100	1,100	0	0.0	1,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	2,800	2,800	0	0.0	2,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	5,900	5,400	500	9.3	5,800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	14,000	14,000	0	0.0	14,100
Health Care and Social Assistance.....	12,800	12,600	200	1.6	12,800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	4,300	4,200	100	2.4	4,200
OTHER SERVICES	2,900	2,800	100	3.6	2,800
GOVERNMENT	9,900	10,400	-500	-4.8	10,000
Federal.....	600	600	0	0.0	600
State & Local.....	9,300	9,800	-500	-5.1	9,400

For further information on the Waterbury Labor Market Area contact Joseph Slepiski at (860) 263-6278.

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

**Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes. **Includes Indian tribal government employment.*

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES LMA

SMALLER LMAS



Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB	FEB	CHANGE		JAN
	2005	2004	NO.	%	2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT					
ENFIELD LMA.....	44,800	45,200	-400	-0.9	45,500
TORRINGTON LMA.....	35,300	35,200	100	0.3	35,400
WILLIMANTIC - DANIELSON LMA.....	36,700	35,500	1,200	3.4	36,700

NOTE: More industry detail data is available for the State and its nine labor market areas at: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/202/covered.htm>. The data published there differ from the data in the preceding tables in that they are developed from a near-universe count of Connecticut employment covered by the unemployment insurance (UI) program, while the data here is sample-based. The data drawn from the UI program does not contain estimates of employment not covered by unemployment insurance, and is lagged several months behind the current employment estimates presented here.

SPRINGFIELD, MA-CT NECTA*

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	FEB	FEB	CHANGE		JAN
	2005	2004	NO.	%	2005
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT.....	290,800	287,600	3,200	1.1	289,800
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES.....	48,100	47,600	500	1.1	48,800
CONSTRUCTION, NAT. RES. & MINING....	8,700	8,700	0	0.0	9,500
MANUFACTURING.....	39,400	38,900	500	1.3	39,300
Durable Goods.....	24,600	24,200	400	1.7	24,500
Non-Durable Goods.....	14,800	14,700	100	0.7	14,800
SERVICE PROVIDING INDUSTRIES.....	242,700	240,000	2,700	1.1	241,000
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES....	60,600	59,700	900	1.5	61,400
Wholesale Trade.....	11,400	10,700	700	6.5	11,300
Retail Trade.....	36,300	35,900	400	1.1	37,200
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities....	12,900	13,100	-200	-1.5	12,900
INFORMATION.....	4,300	4,800	-500	-10.4	4,400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES.....	16,200	16,200	0	0.0	16,200
Finance and Insurance.....	12,300	12,500	-200	-1.6	12,300
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities....	7,800	7,900	-100	-1.3	7,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	23,000	22,200	800	3.6	23,200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	54,200	53,300	900	1.7	51,800
Educational Services.....	12,000	12,100	-100	-0.8	10,000
Health Care and Social Assistance.....	42,200	41,200	1,000	2.4	41,800
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY.....	25,000	24,300	700	2.9	24,700
OTHER SERVICES.....	11,200	11,000	200	1.8	11,200
GOVERNMENT	48,200	48,500	-300	-0.6	48,100
Federal.....	7,000	6,700	300	4.5	7,000
State & Local.....	41,200	41,800	-600	-1.4	41,100

* New England City and Town Area

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

** Total excludes workers idled due to labor-management disputes.*

LMA LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

(Not seasonally adjusted)

	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	FEB 2005	FEB 2004	CHANGE		JAN 2005
				NO.	%	
CONNECTICUT	Civilian Labor Force	1,757,100	1,791,000	-33,900	-1.9	1,764,800
	Employed	1,663,300	1,691,000	-27,700	-1.6	1,672,600
	Unemployed	93,800	100,000	-6,200	-6.2	92,200
	Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.6	-0.3	---	5.2
BRIDGEPORT - STAMFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	460,900	471,900	-11,000	-2.3	463,800
	Employed	439,100	448,300	-9,200	-2.1	442,400
	Unemployed	21,800	23,600	-1,800	-7.6	21,400
	Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.0	-0.3	---	4.6
DANBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	88,000	89,800	-1,800	-2.0	88,400
	Employed	84,400	86,000	-1,600	-1.9	84,900
	Unemployed	3,600	3,800	-200	-5.3	3,500
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.3	-0.2	---	4.0
ENFIELD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	48,100	48,700	-600	-1.2	47,800
	Employed	45,500	46,000	-500	-1.1	45,500
	Unemployed	2,600	2,700	-100	-3.7	2,300
	Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.5	-0.1	---	4.8
HARTFORD LMA	Civilian Labor Force	539,900	548,200	-8,300	-1.5	541,400
	Employed	508,900	515,100	-6,200	-1.2	510,800
	Unemployed	30,900	33,100	-2,200	-6.6	30,600
	Unemployment Rate	5.7	6.0	-0.3	---	5.7
NEW HAVEN LMA	Civilian Labor Force	285,000	291,300	-6,300	-2.2	286,500
	Employed	269,500	275,000	-5,500	-2.0	271,000
	Unemployed	15,500	16,300	-800	-4.9	15,400
	Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.6	-0.2	---	5.4
NORWICH - NEW LONDON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	150,900	153,100	-2,200	-1.4	151,700
	Employed	143,900	145,600	-1,700	-1.2	144,800
	Unemployed	6,900	7,500	-600	-8.0	6,800
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.9	-0.3	---	4.5
TORRINGTON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	48,200	49,200	-1,000	-2.0	48,600
	Employed	45,300	46,100	-800	-1.7	45,600
	Unemployed	2,900	3,100	-200	-6.5	2,900
	Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.3	-0.2	---	6.1
WATERBURY LMA	Civilian Labor Force	95,800	97,800	-2,000	-2.0	96,000
	Employed	88,900	90,700	-1,800	-2.0	89,300
	Unemployed	6,800	7,100	-300	-4.2	6,700
	Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.3	-0.1	---	7.0
WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON LMA	Civilian Labor Force	53,800	54,300	-500	-0.9	53,900
	Employed	50,500	50,700	-200	-0.4	50,800
	Unemployed	3,300	3,600	-300	-8.3	3,200
	Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.6	-0.4	---	5.9
UNITED STATES	Civilian Labor Force	147,649,000	146,154,000	1,495,000	1.0	147,125,000
	Employed	139,100,000	137,384,000	1,716,000	1.2	138,682,000
	Unemployed	8,549,000	8,770,000	-221,000	-2.5	8,444,000
	Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.0	-0.2	---	5.7

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

LMA

CONNECTICUT

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS				
	FEB		CHG	JAN	FEB		CHG	JAN	FEB		CHG	JAN	
	2005	2004	Y/Y	2005	2005	2004	Y/Y	2005	2005	2004	Y/Y	2005	
<i>(Not seasonally adjusted)</i>													
MANUFACTURING	\$785.00	\$746.59	\$38.42	\$791.70	41.8	41.5	0.3	42.0	\$18.78	\$17.99	\$0.79	\$18.85	
DURABLE GOODS	812.86	773.72	39.14	814.21	41.9	41.8	0.1	42.1	19.40	18.51	0.89	19.34	
Fabricated Metal	733.56	695.54	38.02	733.15	43.1	41.9	1.2	43.0	17.02	16.60	0.42	17.05	
Machinery	755.30	734.91	20.39	776.08	39.4	39.3	0.1	40.4	19.17	18.70	0.47	19.21	
Computer & Electronic	634.80	615.13	19.67	638.28	40.0	40.1	-0.1	40.5	15.87	15.34	0.53	15.76	
Transport. Equipment	1,019.07	965.74	53.33	1,013.51	42.8	42.6	0.2	42.3	23.81	22.67	1.14	23.96	
NON-DUR. GOODS	714.69	679.73	34.96	734.84	41.6	40.8	0.8	41.8	17.18	16.66	0.52	17.58	
CONSTRUCTION	881.28	893.97	-12.69	816.91	38.4	38.7	-0.3	37.2	22.95	23.10	-0.15	21.96	

LMAs

	AVG WEEKLY EARNINGS				AVG WEEKLY HOURS				AVG HOURLY EARNINGS				
	FEB		CHG	JAN	FEB		CHG	JAN	FEB		CHG	JAN	
	2005	2004	Y/Y	2005	2005	2004	Y/Y	2005	2005	2004	Y/Y	2005	
MANUFACTURING													
Bridgeport - Stamford	\$827.34	\$862.42	-\$35.08	\$826.91	41.1	42.4	-1.3	41.7	\$20.13	\$20.34	-\$0.21	\$19.83	
Hartford	914.94	846.42	68.52	914.64	44.2	42.9	1.3	44.4	20.70	19.73	0.97	20.60	
New Haven	629.97	629.63	0.34	671.40	40.1	40.7	-0.6	43.4	15.71	15.47	0.24	15.47	
Norwich - New London	787.27	748.51	38.76	783.41	42.1	41.4	0.7	42.6	18.70	18.08	0.62	18.39	
Waterbury	732.04	702.38	29.66	679.88	40.2	37.5	2.7	37.5	18.21	18.73	-0.52	18.13	

Current month's data are preliminary. Prior months' data have been revised. All data are benchmarked to March 2004.

NEW HOUSING PERMITS

LMA

Monthly housing permit data by LMA are no longer available. See notice on page 5.

*(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)***FEBRUARY 2005**

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%	LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
BRIDGEPORT-STAMFORD					HARTFORD cont....				
	460,887	439,114	21,773	4.7	Canton	5,023	4,820	203	4.0
Ansonia	9,877	9,242	635	6.4	Colchester	8,057	7,666	391	4.9
Bridgeport	62,287	57,194	5,093	8.2	Columbia	2,782	2,669	113	4.1
Darien	8,787	8,509	278	3.2	Coventry	6,493	6,193	300	4.6
Derby	6,808	6,404	404	5.9	Cromwell	7,246	6,903	343	4.7
Easton	3,675	3,565	110	3.0	East Granby	2,687	2,568	119	4.4
Fairfield	28,040	26,968	1,072	3.8	East Haddam	4,754	4,536	218	4.6
Greenwich	29,537	28,593	944	3.2	East Hampton	6,182	5,778	404	6.5
Milford	30,541	29,114	1,427	4.7	East Hartford	23,983	22,316	1,667	7.0
Monroe	10,427	10,028	399	3.8	Ellington	7,946	7,557	389	4.9
New Canaan	8,659	8,417	242	2.8	Farmington	11,821	11,311	510	4.3
Newtown	13,680	13,184	496	3.6	Glastonbury	16,761	16,170	591	3.5
Norwalk	47,730	45,566	2,164	4.5	Granby	5,745	5,492	253	4.4
Oxford	6,230	5,960	270	4.3	Haddam	4,365	4,182	183	4.2
Redding	4,418	4,291	127	2.9	Hartford	45,956	41,003	4,953	10.8
Ridgefield	11,482	11,133	349	3.0	Hartland	1,121	1,069	52	4.6
Seymour	8,952	8,500	452	5.0	Harwinton	2,931	2,773	158	5.4
Shelton	22,015	20,999	1,016	4.6	Hebron	5,035	4,817	218	4.3
Southbury	8,733	8,363	370	4.2	Lebanon	3,929	3,740	189	4.8
Stamford	65,695	62,766	2,929	4.5	Manchester	29,646	28,127	1,519	5.1
Stratford	25,780	24,416	1,364	5.3	Mansfield	11,394	10,962	432	3.8
Trumbull	17,488	16,795	693	4.0	Marlborough	3,253	3,125	128	3.9
Weston	4,803	4,665	138	2.9	Middlefield	2,239	2,132	107	4.8
Westport	12,288	11,897	391	3.2	Middletown	24,407	23,174	1,233	5.1
Wilton	8,150	7,904	246	3.0	New Britain	32,859	30,022	2,837	8.6
Woodbridge	4,803	4,639	164	3.4	New Hartford	3,444	3,283	161	4.7
DANBURY					Newington				
	87,965	84,384	3,581	4.1		15,549	14,797	752	4.8
Bethel	10,550	10,138	412	3.9	Plainville	9,575	8,968	607	6.3
Bridgewater	1,002	974	28	2.8	Plymouth	6,437	5,968	469	7.3
Brookfield	8,650	8,329	321	3.7	Portland	4,874	4,619	255	5.2
Danbury	42,503	40,675	1,828	4.3	Rocky Hill	9,871	9,420	451	4.6
New Fairfield	7,384	7,125	259	3.5	Simsbury	11,174	10,763	411	3.7
New Milford	15,817	15,143	674	4.3	Southington	22,300	21,091	1,209	5.4
Sherman	2,058	1,999	59	2.9	South Windsor	13,387	12,846	541	4.0
ENFIELD					Stafford				
	48,107	45,525	2,582	5.4		6,366	5,991	375	5.9
East Windsor	5,931	5,567	364	6.1	Thomaston	4,340	4,058	282	6.5
Enfield	23,688	22,441	1,247	5.3	Tolland	7,560	7,295	265	3.5
Somers	4,641	4,393	248	5.3	Union	435	415	20	4.6
Suffield	6,976	6,630	346	5.0	Vernon	15,948	15,122	826	5.2
Windsor Locks	6,872	6,495	377	5.5	West Hartford	27,485	26,250	1,235	4.5
HARTFORD					Wethersfield				
	539,865	508,924	30,941	5.7		12,592	11,970	622	4.9
Andover	1,829	1,749	80	4.4	Willington	3,644	3,498	146	4.0
Ashford	2,380	2,261	119	5.0	Windsor	14,938	14,183	755	5.1
Avon	8,258	7,981	277	3.4	<p>All Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Connecticut except three are federally-designated areas for developing labor statistics. For the sake of simplicity, the federal Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk NECTA is referred to in Connecticut DOL publications as the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA, and the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford NECTA is the Hartford LMA.</p> <p>The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified 17 towns in the northwest part of the state as a separate area for reporting labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, these towns are included in the Torrington LMA. For the same purpose, five towns which are part of the Springfield, MA area are published as the Enfield LMA. Similarly the towns of Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock-part of the Worcester, MA area-plus four towns estimated separately are included in the Willimantic-Danielson LMA.</p>				
Barkhamsted	2,077	1,955	122	5.9					
Berlin	10,181	9,673	508	5.0					
Bloomfield	9,023	8,463	560	6.2					
Bolton	2,851	2,754	97	3.4					
Bristol	31,909	29,831	2,078	6.5					
Burlington	4,823	4,615	208	4.3					

LABOR FORCE CONCEPTS

The **civilian labor force** comprises all state residents age 16 years and older classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with criteria described below. Excluded are members of the military and persons in institutions (correctional and mental health, for example).

The **employed** are all persons who did any work as paid employees or in their own business during the survey week, or who have worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member. Persons temporarily absent from a job because of illness, bad weather, strike or for personal reasons are also counted as employed whether they were paid by their employer or were seeking other jobs.

The **unemployed** are all persons who did not work, but were available for work during the survey week (except for temporary illness) and made specific efforts to find a job in the prior four weeks. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY TOWN

Town

(By Place of Residence - Not Seasonally Adjusted)

FEBRUARY 2005

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
NEW HAVEN	285,025	269,500	15,525	5.4
Bethany	2,769	2,659	110	4.0
Branford	16,047	15,311	736	4.6
Cheshire	13,587	13,012	575	4.2
Chester	2,111	2,022	89	4.2
Clinton	7,402	7,035	367	5.0
Deep River	2,423	2,304	119	4.9
Durham	3,809	3,674	135	3.5
East Haven	14,868	14,031	837	5.6
Essex	3,536	3,369	167	4.7
Guilford	11,811	11,381	430	3.6
Hamden	28,727	27,298	1,429	5.0
Killingworth	3,282	3,163	119	3.6
Madison	9,211	8,909	302	3.3
Meriden	29,025	27,105	1,920	6.6
New Haven	51,224	47,363	3,861	7.5
North Branford	7,680	7,276	404	5.3
North Haven	11,956	11,400	556	4.7
Old Saybrook	5,078	4,848	230	4.5
Orange	6,573	6,311	262	4.0
Wallingford	23,180	22,024	1,156	5.0
Westbrook	3,384	3,233	151	4.5
West Haven	27,342	25,775	1,567	5.7

***NORWICH-NEW LONDON**

	137,511	131,275	6,236	4.5
Bozrah	1,479	1,411	68	4.6
Canterbury	3,151	2,975	176	5.6
East Lyme	9,744	9,371	373	3.8
Franklin	1,205	1,150	55	4.6
Griswold	7,111	6,729	382	5.4
Groton	19,460	18,554	906	4.7
Ledyard	8,532	8,236	296	3.5
Lisbon	2,589	2,480	109	4.2
Lyme	1,165	1,123	42	3.6
Montville	11,032	10,557	475	4.3
New London	13,800	12,994	806	5.8
No. Stonington	3,275	3,150	125	3.8
Norwich	20,666	19,572	1,094	5.3
Old Lyme	4,289	4,135	154	3.6
Preston	2,822	2,719	103	3.6
Salem	2,578	2,482	96	3.7
Sprague	1,812	1,715	97	5.4
Stonington	10,536	10,186	350	3.3
Voluntown	1,632	1,539	93	5.7
Waterford	10,634	10,198	436	4.1

*Connecticut portion only. For whole NECTA, including Rhode Island town, see below.

NORWICH-NEW LONDON

	150,851	143,946	6,905	4.6
Westerly, RI	13,340	12,671	669	5.0

Labor Force estimates are prepared following statistical procedures developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

LMA/TOWNS	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	%
TORRINGTON	48,185	45,250	2,935	6.1
Bethlehem	1,739	1,642	97	5.6
Canaan	527	492	35	6.6
Colebrook	705	676	29	4.1
Cornwall	701	669	32	4.6
Goshen	1,292	1,223	69	5.3
Kent	1,333	1,283	50	3.8
Litchfield	3,719	3,497	222	6.0
Morris	1,125	1,058	67	6.0
Norfolk	816	773	43	5.3
North Canaan	1,496	1,401	95	6.4
Roxbury	1,146	1,100	46	4.0
Salisbury	1,709	1,614	95	5.6
Sharon	1,320	1,268	52	3.9
Torrington	18,495	17,220	1,275	6.9
Warren	606	577	29	4.8
Washington	1,668	1,586	82	4.9
Winchester	5,162	4,771	391	7.6
Woodbury	4,625	4,399	226	4.9

WATERBURY	95,759	88,911	6,848	7.2
Beacon Falls	3,032	2,870	162	5.3
Middlebury	3,475	3,318	157	4.5
Naugatuck	16,274	15,214	1,060	6.5
Prospect	4,958	4,717	241	4.9
Waterbury	47,862	43,734	4,128	8.6
Watertown	11,743	11,074	669	5.7
Wolcott	8,415	7,985	430	5.1

WILLIMANTIC-DANIELSON

	53,809	50,464	3,345	6.2
Brooklyn	3,493	3,296	197	5.6
Chaplin	1,290	1,220	70	5.4
Eastford	887	841	46	5.2
Hampton	1,051	984	67	6.4
Killingly	8,656	8,036	620	7.2
Plainfield	7,831	7,287	544	6.9
Pomfret	2,062	1,968	94	4.6
Putnam	5,023	4,737	286	5.7
Scotland	900	865	35	3.9
Sterling	1,769	1,643	126	7.1
Thompson	5,247	4,927	320	6.1
Windham	11,251	10,513	738	6.6
Woodstock	4,350	4,147	203	4.7

Not Seasonally Adjusted:

CONNECTICUT	1,757,100	1,663,300	93,800	5.3
UNITED STATES	147,649,000	139,100,000	8,549,000	5.8

Seasonally Adjusted:

CONNECTICUT	1,776,600	1,691,400	85,200	4.8
UNITED STATES	148,132,000	140,144,000	7,988,000	5.4

LABOR FORCE CONCEPTS (Continued)

The **unemployment rate** represents the number unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

With the exception of those persons temporarily absent from a job or waiting to be recalled to one, persons with no job and who are not actively looking for one are counted as "not in the labor force".

Over the course of a year, the size of the labor force and the levels of employment undergo fluctuations due to such seasonal events as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays and the opening and closing of schools. Because these seasonal events follow a regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by adjusting the monthly statistics. **Seasonal Adjustment** makes it easier to observe cyclical and other nonseasonal developments.

HOUSING PERMIT ACTIVITY BY TOWN

TOWN	FEB 2005	YR TO DATE 2005	2004	TOWN	FEB 2005	YR TO DATE 2005	2004	TOWN	FEB 2005	YR TO DATE 2005	2004
Andover	0	0	5	Griswold	na	4	4	Preston	1	2	2
Ansonia	1	1	1	Groton	0	69	6	Prospect	na	1	3
Ashford	2	3	6	Guilford	3	6	3	Putnam	2	4	2
Avon	4	4	12	Haddam	1	2	3	Redding	na	0	1
Barkhamsted	na	1	2	Hamden	1	3	7	Ridgefield	3	6	3
Beacon Falls	na	na	3	Hampton	0	1	2	Rocky Hill	5	5	7
Berlin	3	5	7	Hartford	23	46	4	Roxbury	na	5	1
Bethany	na	na	4	Hartland	na	0	1	Salem	1	2	4
Bethel	0	1	1	Harwinton	1	2	5	Salisbury	na	na	2
Bethlehem	na	0	0	Hebron	na	na	4	Scotland	0	2	1
Bloomfield	na	1	10	Kent	1	2	2	Seymour	0	0	3
Bolton	0	1	4	Killingly	6	10	7	Sharon	0	1	0
Bozrah	2	2	1	Killingworth	na	3	7	Shelton	22	30	17
Branford	na	6	3	Lebanon	3	5	8	Sherman	na	1	2
Bridgeport	4	9	13	Ledyard	2	5	7	Simsbury	7	9	4
Bridgewater	na	na	1	Lisbon	1	2	2	Somers	3	5	5
Bristol	1	2	8	Litchfield	na	na	2	South Windsor	2	4	9
Brookfield	na	5	6	Lyme	0	0	0	Southbury	4	10	25
Brooklyn	0	4	4	Madison	0	3	11	Southington	8	17	13
Burlington	1	2	3	Manchester	13	23	18	Sprague	2	2	2
Canaan	0	0	0	Mansfield	5	8	7	Stafford	na	2	5
Canterbury	0	1	1	Marlborough	2	2	5	Stamford	6	16	9
Canton	9	12	9	Meriden	4	11	11	Sterling	na	na	6
Chaplin	1	2	2	Middlebury	na	1	7	Stonington	7	11	10
Cheshire	0	3	4	Middlefield	0	0	0	Stratford	2	4	14
Chester	na	na	0	Middletown	16	31	28	Suffield	15	15	3
Clinton	2	4	2	Milford	22	25	56	Thomaston	na	na	3
Colchester	5	5	13	Monroe	2	7	2	Thompson	na	4	0
Colebrook	1	1	0	Montville	2	5	1	Tolland	1	7	14
Columbia	1	4	2	Morris	0	1	2	Torrington	1	6	8
Cornwall	0	0	2	Naugatuck	3	9	4	Trumbull	1	3	8
Coventry	1	4	4	New Britain	na	4	1	Union	1	1	0
Cromwell	0	1	3	New Canaan	3	8	13	Vernon	13	27	29
Danbury	17	46	56	New Fairfield	na	8	6	Voluntown	0	1	0
Darien	na	2	9	New Hartford	1	4	4	Wallingford	11	22	15
Deep River	0	0	0	New Haven	0	2	4	Warren	1	1	1
Derby	na	na	2	New London	3	6	0	Washington	na	na	1
Durham	3	6	6	New Milford	3	11	9	Waterbury	14	17	8
East Granby	2	2	0	Newington	3	4	2	Waterford	0	3	2
East Haddam	3	3	11	Newtown	3	6	26	Watertown	2	7	2
East Hampton	6	26	15	Norfolk	0	0	1	West Hartford	0	1	7
East Hartford	na	na	5	North Branford	na	2	2	West Haven	na	na	2
East Haven	0	1	5	North Canaan	0	0	2	Westbrook	2	9	5
East Lyme	7	7	8	North Haven	0	8	4	Weston	na	na	0
East Windsor	1	3	14	North Stonington	0	0	3	Westport	6	16	10
Eastford	1	2	1	Norwalk	12	25	50	Wethersfield	na	na	1
Easton	0	0	1	Norwich	5	85	17	Willington	2	3	3
Ellington	4	8	4	Old Lyme	na	na	3	Wilton	na	0	3
Enfield	na	3	7	Old Saybrook	11	13	5	Winchester	0	2	2
Essex	0	0	2	Orange	na	na	7	Windham	0	5	0
Fairfield	9	22	83	Oxford	19	27	28	Windsor	na	2	4
Farmington	2	3	32	Plainfield	1	3	5	Windsor Locks	na	1	5
Franklin	0	0	0	Plainville	2	2	0	Wolcott	2	4	4
Glastonbury	6	9	8	Plymouth	1	2	3	Woodbridge	na	0	0
Goshen	2	3	6	Pomfret	1	2	4	Woodbury	1	3	3
Granby	7	10	10	Portland	3	7	81	Woodstock	1	5	12
Greenwich	9	16	15								

For further information on the housing permit data, contact Kolie Sun of DECD at (860) 270-8167.

BUSINESS STARTS AND TERMINATIONS

Registrations and terminations of business entities as recorded with the Secretary of the State and the Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) are an indication of new business formation and activity. DOL business starts include new employers which have become liable for unemployment insurance taxes during the quarter, as well as new establishments opened by existing employers. DOL business terminations are those accounts discontinued due to inactivity (no employees) or business closure, and accounts for individual business establishments that are closed by still active employers. The Secretary of the State registrations include limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and foreign-owned (out-of-state) and domestic-owned (in-state) corporations.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), computed and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs and other goods and services that people buy for their day-to-day living. The Northeast region is comprised of the New England states, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) covers both wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits for all occupations and establishments in both the private nonfarm sector and state and local government. The ECI measures employers' labor costs free from the influences of employment shifts among industries and occupations. The base period for all data is June 1989 when the ECI is 100.

HOURS AND EARNINGS ESTIMATES

Production worker earnings and hours estimates include full- and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month. Average hourly earnings are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

INDIAN GAMING DATA

Indian Gaming Payments are amounts received by the State as a result of the slot compact with the two Federally recognized tribes in Connecticut, which calls for 25 percent of net slot receipts to be remitted to the State. Indian Gaming Slots are the total net revenues from slot machines only received by the two Federally recognized Indian tribes.

INITIAL CLAIMS

Average weekly initial claims are calculated by dividing the total number of new claims for unemployment insurance received in the month by the number of weeks in the month. A minor change in methodology took effect with data published in the March 1997 issue of the DIGEST. Data have been revised back to January 1980.

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Primarily a measure of unemployment insurance program activity, the insured unemployment rate is the 13-week average of the number of people claiming unemployment benefits divided by the number of workers covered by the unemployment insurance system.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

Labor force estimates are a measure of the work status of people who live in Connecticut. Prepared under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the statewide estimates are the product of a signal-plus noise model, which uses results from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of Connecticut households, counts of claimants for unemployment benefits, and establishment employment estimates. Beginning with the publication of January 2005 data, an improved methodology is being used to develop labor force estimates, by which monthly state model-based employment and unemployment estimates are controlled to add to the national CPS levels. This will ensure that national economic events are reflected in the state estimates, and it will significantly reduce end-of-year revisions. (For more information, please see the Connecticut Economic Digest, December 2004 issue.) Labor force data, reflecting persons employed by place of residence, are not directly comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. In the labor force estimates, workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. The labor force data also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics and the self-employed. Because of these conceptual differences, total labor force employment is almost always different from nonfarm wage and salary employment.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

All Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Connecticut except three are federally-designated areas for developing labor statistics. For the sake of simplicity, the federal Bridgeport-Norwalk-Stamford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is referred to in Connecticut Department of Labor publications as the Bridgeport-Stamford LMA, and the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford MSA is called the Hartford LMA. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified the 17 towns in the northwestern part of the state as a separate area for reporting labor force data. For the convenience of our data users, data for these towns are included in the Torrington LMA. For the same purpose, data for the towns of East Windsor, Enfield, Somers, Suffield and Windsor Locks, which are officially part of the Springfield MSA, are published as the Enfield LMA. Similarly, the towns of Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock - part of the Worcester MSA - are included in the Willimantic-Danielson LMA. Also, data for Westerly, Rhode Island are included in the Norwich-New London LMA. Industry employment and labor force data estimates contained in Connecticut Department of Labor publications are prepared following the same statistical procedures developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, whether for federally designated or state-determined areas.

LEADING AND COINCIDENT EMPLOYMENT INDICES

The leading employment index is a composite of six individual largely employment-related series -- the average workweek of manufacturing production and construction workers, Hartford help-wanted advertising index, short-duration (less than 15 weeks) unemployment rate, initial claims for unemployment insurance, total housing permits, and Moody's BAA corporate bond yield. While not employment-sector variables, housing permits are closely related to construction employment and the corporate bond yield adds important information about the movement in interest rates. The coincident employment index is a composite indicator of four individual employment-related series -- the total unemployment rate, nonfarm employment (employer survey), total employment (state residents employed measured by a household survey), and the insured unemployment rate. All data are seasonally adjusted and come from the Connecticut Labor Department, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

Nonfarm employment estimates are derived from a survey of businesses to measure *jobs* by industry. The estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Excluded from these estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees and unpaid family workers. In some cases, due to space constraints, all industry estimates are not shown. Call (860) 263-6275 for a more comprehensive breakout of nonfarm employment estimates. These data are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

UI COVERED WAGES

UI covered wages is the total amount paid to those employees who are covered under the Connecticut's Unemployment Insurance (UI) law for services performed during the quarter. The fluctuations in the 1992-93 period reflect the effect of the changes in the tax law and the massive restructuring in the state's economy.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

(Percent change from prior year; see pages 5-8 for reference months or quarters)

Leading Employment Index +2.1	Business Activity	Tourism and Travel
Coincident Employment Index +2.3	New Housing Permits NA	Info Center Visitors -9.3
Leading General Drift Indicator +1.0	Electricity Sales +2.5	Attraction Visitors -20.4
Coincident General Drift Indicator +0.7	Retail Sales -0.6	Air Passenger Count +8.6
Banknorth Business Barometer ... +2.0	Construction Contracts Index +9.1	Indian Gaming Slots -6.7
Total Nonfarm Employment +1.2	New Auto Registrations +16.6	Travel and Tourism Index +3.4
Unemployment -0.4	Air Cargo Tons +4.2	Employment Cost Index (U.S.)
Labor Force -1.4	Exports +5.2	Total +3.8
Employed -1.0	Business Starts	Wages & Salaries +2.4
Unemployed -9.3	Secretary of the State +3.5	Benefit Costs +6.9
Average Weekly Initial Claims -14.2	Dept. of Labor +8.6	Consumer Prices
Help Wanted Index -- Hartford 0.0	Business Terminations	Connecticut NA
Average Ins. Unempl. Rate -0.40*	Secretary of the State +18.1	U.S. City Average +3.0
Average Weekly Hours, Mfg +0.7	Dept. of Labor -32.9	Northeast Region +3.5
Average Hourly Earnings, Mfg +4.4	State Revenues +3.9	NY-NJ-Long Island +3.9
Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg +5.1	Corporate Tax +61.6	Boston-Brockton-Nashua +1.4
CT Mfg. Production Index +0.6	Personal Income Tax +6.5	Consumer Confidence
Production Worker Hours +3.2	Real Estate Conveyance Tax +7.8	Connecticut -4.2
Industrial Electricity Sales -4.4	Sales & Use Tax +3.8	New England +36.3
Personal Income +4.9	Indian Gaming Payments -1.6	U.S. +17.5
UI Covered Wages +5.3		Interest Rates
		Prime +1.49*
		Conventional Mortgage -0.01*

* Percentage point change; ** Less than 0.05 percent;
NA = Not Available

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- o What additional data would you like to see included in the Digest?

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